

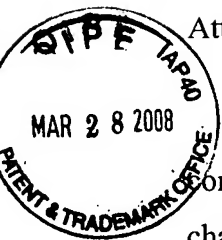
REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of this application as examined pursuant to the office action of October 31, 2007. In the office action, Claims 41-58 were examined. Claims 41-58 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US published application Publication No. US2005/0273600 of Seeman (“Seeman”) in view of US Patent No. 6,502,131 issued to Vaid et al. (“Vaid”). Claims 41-58 remain pending.

The Specification has been amended to clarify the distinction between devices of a network infrastructure that perform the primary function of exchanging packets and those devices that perform the primary function of network management. Pending independent Claims 41 and 54 have been amended to make clear that the policy changing functionality of the present invention includes functions that are performed in the packet forwarding devices rather than solely in the server devices of the network. Applicants respectfully submit that those modifications clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited art. Applicants note that the new claims are fully supported by the original Specification as amended and therefore add no new subject matter.

The 35 USC § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 41-58 were rejected in the October 31, 2007, office action as being unpatentable over Seeman in view of Vaid. Applicants respectfully submit that the Seeman reference is inapplicable to the present invention, particularly in view of the amendments made to independent Claims 41 and 54. Specifically, the Seeman reference is directed to a system completely controlled centrally in a server for the purpose of digital rights management. Such a system does not contemplate any form of information transfer that involves decision making anywhere other than at the central management server. All aspects of the Seeman reference are directed to ensuring the user has the permitted access to the information in the server. Nowhere does Seeman suggest that policy information or policy changes for a user are to be contained in a packet forwarding device. The present invention is directed to regulating network access, but allows for that regulation to take place in a much more localized manner. As a result, a failure or security event in one region of a network system is much less likely to induce a complete system-wide failure. On the other hand, the Seeman system, with central control only of policy history storage and modification, is more prone to system-wide failure.



In regard to the Vaid reference, Applicants note that Vaid appears to be focused on the concept of graphical user interface arrangements. The present invention is directed to policyming changing mechanisms using packet forwarding devices of the network infrastructure to improve network system security in the face of an array of triggering events. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Seeman and Vaid fails to describe the present invention as defined by the amended claims. For this reason, Applicants respectfully suggests that the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of pending Claims 41-58 has been successfully traversed. Withdrawal of that rejection is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully suggest that the amendments made to the claims and the arguments presented herein fully address the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a). Allowance of pending Claims 41-58 is therefore requested. Applicants note that by this amendment, no new claims have been added. Therefore, no additional filing fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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EB048342260US. It is hereby requested that this filing be granted a filing date of March 28, 2008.

Chris A. Caseiro